

## **Restoration of Fair Park Receives National Preservation Honor**

Dallas' Fair Park, the home of the largest collection of Art Deco buildings and monumental public art in the United States, the State Fair of Texas, and ten cultural institutions has been honored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A 2003 National Preservation Honor Award was presented Oct. 2 in Denver, Colorado, during the National Trust's National Preservation Conference. Representatives from the City of Dallas and Friends of Fair Park accepted the award.

A City of Dallas facility operated by the Park and Recreation Department, Fair Park is a National Historic Landmark, a State of Texas Archeological Landmark as well as a City of Dallas landmark. Fair Park was the site of the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition, one of six regional world's fairs held in the United States during the 1930's.

Over the years, the 277-acre complex suffered due to the age, wear and tear of the various structures and a lack of financial resources to provide much-needed restoration work. In 1994 and 1995, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed Fair Park as one of the "Eleven Most Endangered Neighborhoods in America." In less than decade, more than \$100 million in public and private funding has contributed to its preservation and revitalization.

"This is a phenomenal honor for our city and Fair Park," said Dallas Mayor Laura Miller. "This recognition once again proves that the people of Dallas have a great cooperative spirit."

"Fair Park is a national treasure, and as such, we take our responsibility seriously for its proper care," said Paul Dyer, Director of the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department. "The Preservation Honor Award will only strengthen our resolve in improving and enhancing the beauty of the park while showing respect for the enormous history that makes it so special."

"We especially want to thank the Friends of Fair Park, the State Fair of Texas, and the neighborhoods around Fair Park for their incredible commitment and support," added Eddie Hueston, Executive General Manager of Fair Park. "We are confident that our efforts to preserve this historic and cultural asset for our community will continue."

Posted: 2 October 03